

RESUMPTION OF BUILDING CUTS DOWN NON-EMPLOYMENT

Increased Operations Also Reported by Rubber Companies in Cleveland Area. Conditions Elsewhere.

BY GUY T. ROCKWELL.

CLEVELAND, April 20.—Non-employment here has been cut down materially this week by resumption of activities in the building trades, which men had been on strike for several weeks. Work has been resumed on several large buildings and the Union Trust Company has asked for bids April 26 on what is said will be the largest bank building in America, requiring 18,000 tons of steel.

Steel continues at a high rate of production at plants in this section. Open hearth furnaces in the Mahoning valley are operating at 80 per cent of capacity, while sheet mills are running at 75 per cent. This is the seventh consecutive week that the open hearth has maintained production at better than 75 per cent. Increased operations are reported by the rubber companies. Sales of tires throughout the country have been heavy and stocks in the hands of dealers are light. Truck and tractor companies report improved business, especially in the rural districts.

In a Healthier Condition

Than for More Than a Year

BY DICK SMITH.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., April 20.—A survey of the southwest shows trade and business conditions, as a whole, in a healthier condition than at any time in more than a year, according to officials of the largest bank in the southwest. Markets for the principal products of this section are maintaining their advanced prices. With very few exceptions these prices now have reached a point where the producer is assured of a profit.

Better weather conditions have brought out a heavy retail trade here and have lifted the gloom which has over the department stores. Contractors and building trade workers are still far apart on adoption of a new wage scale for the year beginning May 1.

Trade Showing Improves

In the Pacific Northwest

BY PAUL C. HEDRICK.

SEATTLE, April 20.—Improved business conditions in the Pacific northwest, indicated by the larger bank clearings reported in late weeks, are attributed to increased production in the lumber industry and spring activity in the salmon-canning plants and copper mines of Alaska. The salmon canners have contracts for their help and the incidental trade in their supplies, including hardware, groceries, canned goods and other commodities, is about equal to the volume maintained before the outbreak of the war.

Business in Alaska are well booked in advance and the seasonal traffic northward promises to be exceptional. Heavy Alaskan lines operating from Seattle are preparing for this increased traffic.

Unemployment in the northwest has been materially reduced by the spring demand for men in the logging camps and lumber mills. Building operations also are increasing, contracts having been awarded this week for construction of a new apartment house in the city.

Copper from the mines at Kennecott and La Touche, Alaska, is now moving southward to the refineries at the rate of five million pounds a month. This output will be increased to six million pounds by June 1, according to an announcement by officials of the mining companies today.

The La Touche mine will be at capacity production within sixty days.

Commodity Reports

From Various Sections

Machinery.

BOSTON, April 20 (Special).—Manufacturers of railroad equipment are much more active and have more orders on their books than at any time for years.

Cement.

MINNEAPOLIS, April 20 (Special).—Large quantities of cement will be used this year in concrete road construction throughout Minnesota, the state road program calling for expenditure of \$30,000,000. This sum includes trunk highway funds from motor taxes, federal aid and county reimbursement. \$2,200,000 state aid to counties and \$15,000,000 in local taxes to be used on secondary highways.

Glass.

WHEELING, W. Va., April 20 (Special).—Stockholders of the Central glass works, makers of pressed and blown tableware and decorative glassware, will meet shortly to increase capitalization from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000.

Coal.

NEW YORK, April 20 (Special).—Anthracite operators now here declare that demand for that kind of coal is almost at a standstill here despite the strike. Public service companies, it is claimed, have from one to five months' supply of coal on hand.

Cotton.

NEW ORLEANS, April 20 (Special).—The erection of a large new cotton warehouse complex, which will be begun immediately, will add greatly to the facilities here for handling cotton for shipment.

Leather.

BOSTON, April 20 (Special).—Leather market is very spotty, with persistent demand for patent leathers the most encouraging feature. Heavy galvanized for men's wear are also in good demand and small supply.

Automobiles.

MINNEAPOLIS, April 20 (Special).—Business in motor cars in northwest continues active and in some establishments stocks are very low. Retail trade has been well stocked up on sport shoes for the summer. Many manufacturers and distributors are looking forward to a brisk fall trade.

Shoes.

PHILADELPHIA, April 20 (Special).—Wholesale shoe dealers here are doing a very good business and in some establishments stocks are very low. Retail trade has been well stocked up on sport shoes for the summer. Many manufacturers and distributors are looking forward to a brisk fall trade.

Hardware.

ST. PAUL, April 20 (Special).—Implement dealers here report a surprisingly good demand from farmers of the northwest despite the reported shortage of money. The demand for tractors, however, has been very light.

Pittsburgh, April 20 (Special).—Hardware and builders' tools are in

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